

Agency. The Indians have names for 114 of these 240, or 47½ per cent. There are 71 non-breeders, that is migrants and winter visitants, of which 14, or about 20 per cent., are named, and 169 breeders, of which 100 or about 60 per cent., are named. So that Mr. Henshaw is correct in judging that more than half of the breeders should have names.

The past summer I spent several months among the Otoes, a small tribe in the Indian Territory, and though no complete list of their bird names was collected, yet enough was learned to indicate that in this matter they are poverty stricken.

Morehead, Minn., Dec. 4. 1884.

W. W. COOKE.

NOTES AND NEWS.

IN Dr. Merriam's 'Preliminary Report of the Committee on Bird Migration,' published in the last number of 'The Auk,' attention was called to the fact that the amount of material, in the way of returns from observers, could not be properly elaborated without considerable pecuniary assistance.' Foreseeing this state of affairs, the Union, at its last meeting (Sept., 1884), instructed the Council to prepare and present a proper memorial to Congress in behalf of the Committee. We are happy to state that the appeal was so far successful that an appropriation of \$5000 in aid of the work was secured through the Department of Agriculture. This sum will doubtless enable the Committee to not only carry on the present year's field-work successfully, but to do much toward getting the results of last year's work in proper shape for publication. As is well known, the Migration Committee and the Committee on the Geographical Distribution of North American Birds has been consolidated, and the Committee has now in hand not only the subject of migration, but also the elaboration of all available or obtainable data on the distribution of the species throughout the continent, a subject of well-known interest and importance.

IN 1883, the legislature of Maine repealed all acts providing for the appointment of taxidermists and the taking of birds, nests, and eggs for scientific purposes. Abuses had sprung up under the old statutes, and the law-makers believed that the best remedy would be found in a policy of total prohibition. For two years, therefore, ornithology has made little progress in Maine. During the past winter the Portland Society of Natural History made a determined and successful effort to secure the passage of a law in behalf of collectors. The bill presented by the Society was adopted, with several unimportant changes, but with one provision which is objectionable — which, however, was made a *sine qua*

non by the legislative committee — viz, that but ten collector's commissions shall be in force at any one time.

THE collection of birds in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Cambridge numbers 33,000 specimens, about 4000 of which are mounted and on exhibition, and represent not far from 3000 species. In consequence of financial embarrassments which the Museum has recently experienced, the increase of the collection is likely to be for the present seriously checked; but it is to be hoped that this unfortunate state of affairs may be of short duration. The museum contains much valuable ornithological material, including several thousand birds in spirits, and a very good suite of skeletons, both mounted and unmounted, besides a very fair oölogical collection, which includes that of the late Dr. T. M. Brewer.

MR. J. A. Allen, who for twenty years has had charge of Mammals and Birds at the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Cambridge, and where for fifteen years he has held the position of 'Assistant in Ornithology,' has accepted the curatorship of Mammalogy and Ornithology in the American Museum of Natural History, Central Park, New York City. He will enter upon the duties of his new position about May 1, after which date his address will be as here indicated. Dr. C. Hart Merriam sailed for Europe January 1, for the purpose of spending several months in scientific study at Brunswick, Germany. His return is expected within a few weeks.

WE learn with deep regret of the untimely death, by accidental drowning in the river Don, of the well-known Russian naturalist and traveller, Dr. N. Severtzow, a Corresponding Member of the A. O. U. Dr. Severtzow became first known to the scientific world through the publication of the results of his explorations in Central Asia in 1857. He promptly espoused the Darwinian doctrine of evolution, and is especially known for his valuable publications on the geographical distribution of the animals of Turkestan.

AT the January meeting of the Ridgway Ornithological Club, papers were read on 'The Hummingbirds of California,' by B. T. Gault, and 'Notes on Some Australian Birds,' by Robert Ridgway, and at the February meeting a paper on 'The Vireos of Michigan,' by Dr. Morris Gibbs.

JUVENILE and amateur publications in Natural History appear in different parts of the country with bewildering frequency, not less than twelve or fifteen such publications having started within the last twelvemonth. Most of them aim to cover a wide field, and treat of ornithology only incidentally, but several are exclusively ornithological. One of the latest to claim attention is 'The Young Ornithologist,' published and edited in Boston by A. A. Child, an eight-page monthly sheet, of which Vol. I, No. 1, bears date February, 1885.